



29 Oct 1959 DPD-7417-59

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[redacted] visited VAFB with Hqs and Contractor group to accept and inspect components for Flt 1051 and to review film handling, preflight procedures at L Bldg. VAFB.

The unit completely configured for preflight check--this had not been done by BMD crew heretofore. [redacted] found no one in the ground crew who had sufficient background or experience to adequately prepare aerial photographic equipment for flight. Furthermore, the "clean room" for preflighting was more like a factory work space--sadly lacking in cleanliness and equipment to assist in loading the payload. Film handling procedures were incorrect and had already led to damaging of spools and fogging of film.

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He recommended Proj, LMSD, BMD coordinate on acceptable proceddures for an acceptance check of the system; that a photo technician be added to the preflight crew at VAFB L Bldg.; and better procedures be established; further air conditioning of the preflight area and film storage area be done; and that monthly inspection visits by Hqs, EKC and LMSD reps to L Bldg. be made to keep watch over compliance with procedures.

NRO review(s) completed.